



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

GUATEMALAN MAN ARRESTED IN D.C. MURDER-FOR-HIRE PLOT

-- Defendant is Scheduled to Appear in Federal Court Tomorrow --

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Kenneth L. Wainstein, United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and Allan J. Doody, Special Agent-in-Charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), today announced that a suspect in a murder-for-hire plot on a local jail inmate has been arrested and is scheduled to appear in federal court tomorrow for a preliminary hearing in the District of Columbia.

ICE agents arrested Victor Moscoso Espana, a 20-year-old citizen of Guatemala, in Maryland on Saturday night after receiving information that Moscoso was involved in a murder-for-hire plot and involved in a conspiracy to illegally import and distribute cocaine. He is charged in a criminal complaint with violating Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1958 (using interstate commerce facilities in the commission of murder-for-hire).

ICE agents launched the investigation of Moscoso in September 2005 after receiving information about individuals conspiring to import cocaine and heroin from Guatemala into the United States through various ports of entry, including Dulles International Airport in Virginia.

On October 21, 2005, ICE agents surveilled Moscoso awaiting contact with alleged narcotics suppliers. During the surveillance, Moscoso was recorded making statements indicating that he was plotting to have an individual incarcerated in a Washington D.C. jail murdered for roughly \$15,000, with the payments to be made on a monthly basis over the next year.

ICE agents immediately arrested Moscoso. Subsequent investigation by ICE agents, in conjunction with the Washington Metropolitan Police Department, led to the arrest of two additional suspects on Saturday night. Jose Ramirez and Mario Guerra, both natives of Guatemala, were arrested and are currently being detained on administrative immigration violations.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.